

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

FILE

NOTICE OF THE NAMING AND RELEASE OF 'HOPE,' DESERTWILLOW (Chilopsis linearis
(car.) Sweet)

The Agricultural Experiment Station of New Mexico State University and the USDA, Soil Conservation Service, announces the naming and release of 'Hope,' desertwillow.

The original seed of 'Hope' was collected by Ronald Hooks on U. S. Highway 82 near Hope, New Mexico. The area where it was growing was on the side of an arroyo that feeds into the Rio Penasco.

Desertwillow belongs to the family Bignoniaceae, which is the same family as Catalpa and Trumpet-Creeper, and not the willow family Salix. The genus Chilopsis refers to the lip-like appearance of the corolla, and the species linearis signifies long and slender seed pods and leaves. The leaves of 'Hope' desertwillow are about 1 cm wide and 15 cm long. Under cultivation it produces a large shrub up to 7 m high. Seed pods are narrow and long, about .8 cm in diameter and up to 20 cm in length.

Flowers of 'Hope' desertwillow are white with a yellow throat. The plants flower from late June until late summer if soil moisture is adequate. Flower size varies from 2.5 to 3.8 cm long and are tubular in shape.

'Hope' desertwillow is adapted from western Texas to southern California and southward into Mexico. Albuquerque is about the northern limit for desertwillow in New Mexico. In its natural environment, desertwillow is commonly found along dry washes, and appears to have a low water requirement when compared to most commercially available shrubs and trees.

'Hope' is being released because of its white flower characteristic and fine leaf size. Hardwood cuttings in very limited quantities will be available to Experiment Station workers, commercial nurserymen and arboretums from the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003.

APPROVED:

Jack B. Anderson
Head, Department of Horticulture

2/15/80
Date

Mark H. Miskow
Head, Department of Agronomy

1/30/80
Date

Jim Paulsen
State Conservationist, USDA, Soil Conservation Service

1/30/80
Date

David J. Anderson
Associate Director
New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station

2/20/80
Date